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7 July 1972

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Legislative Interdepartmental Group Meeting re
Pending Legislation - 7 July 1972

1. Today I attended a meeting of the Legislative Interdepartmental Group at 0930 hours in the Roosevelt Room of the White House. Those present included:

National Security Council

Col. Richard Kennedy (Acting Chairman)

White House

Tom Korologos
Richard Cook
Col. T. C. Pinckney

State Department

Marshall Wright
Alex Schnee
Charles Brower

Defense Department

Vice Admiral Ray Peet

AID

Matt Harvey

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2. Items discussed included:

a. Mansfield Amendment. Korologos noted that on this issue there were still a dozen or more "fence sitters" including Republican members of the Foreign Relations Committee such as Senators Charles Percy and James Pearson. Therefore the Administration has been reluctant to press the issue, preferring to wait until after the Democratic convention and until ARVN has--hopefully--demonstrated further successes in the current fighting. When Congress reconvenes, Dr. Kissinger will have a breakfast for selected "fence sitters" and try to win them over.

b. Third Country Operations in Southeast Asia. It was agreed to let the present language, resulting from the Dominick case compromise, stand in the Senate but try to get the entire section knocked out by the House in conference. It was recognized that the Senate compromise language, applying only to third country forces in Thailand, had no practical foreseeable effect, but as a matter of principle the Administration hopes even this version can be deleted in the Senate/House conference.

c. Supporting Assistance. The Administration hopes the \$650 million support assistance authorized by the Senate can be raised in conference to somewhere around \$720 million.

d. Prohibition of Military Support to South Asian Countries. The Administration will seek deletion in conference of a Senate amendment to foreign assistance prohibiting military assistance or sales to Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Ceylon, the Maldives or Bhutan.

e. Foreign Military Sales. The Administration will try to get both the levels and regional ceilings raised, relying largely on pressures from private industry.

f. Azores and Bahrain. The Administration is deeply concerned over the precedent involved in any legislative restrictions on our overseas military deployments and base arrangements. State notes the kind of problems we might face in this regard when our existing arrangements, such as those covering Rota, Spain, come up for renewal. There was considerable discussion of whether it would be better to try to get a House substitute somewhat more palatable than the Senate version, but still less than ideal, rather than allow the bill to go to conference with no House counterpart. It was agreed that Dave Abshire and Richard Cook would sound out Chairman Morgan, House Foreign Affairs Committee, after the Democratic convention making clear the likelihood of a Presidential veto if necessary.

g. Executive Agreements. The Administration finds the Ervin bill, which would provide for congressional veto of executive agreements, particularly unpalatable. It hopes this bill will remain inactive. It will try to kill the somewhat milder Case bill, which has passed the Senate by 81-0, in conference.

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